THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Group of Ministers (GOM) on Civil Aviation has decided upon the financial package for the airline.

(b) No such information is available with or maintained by the Government.

(c) and (d) Group of Ministers is exploring all possible solutions for bringing Air India in good financial health.

Shortage of vaccines in the country

*73. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of children are dying in the country because of an acute shortage of vaccines for preventable diseases;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government had received reports from State Governments about deaths of children due to shortage of vaccines; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet the shortage of vaccines?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the information available, no death due to shortage of vaccines has been reported.

(c) To avoid any shortages in availability of vaccines, orders have already been placed on Public Sector and Private manufacturing units for 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Gender specific allocation in PRIs

*74. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the gender specific allocation in Panchayats and local bodies;

(b) whether special resources for training women in Panchayati Raj, Institutions (PRIs) also being considered; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (DR. C.P. JOSHI): (a) There is no such proposal in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

(b) and (c) Yes. Ministry of Panchayati Raj has made special resources available for training Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) under a scheme called Panchayat Mahila Shakti Abhiyan. The expenditure under this scheme during 2008-09 was Rs. 4.4 crores.

Sharing of black money information by Swiss Banks

*75. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Swiss Banks have agreed to share details of accounts to help hunt black money, in case India gives evidence;

(b) if so, whether Swiss Banks seek concrete information, for tracing tax evaders and have agreed that they would follow international norms provided concrete information like names of banks and other specific details are furnished;

(c) whether they have also pointed out that the new tax pact will help India to trace black money; and

(d) if so, whether India has agreed to have a thorough discussion with the Swiss Government in December in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Government has no agreement with the banks in Switzerland for sharing of details of the Indian account holders. However, Government can seek information for tax purposes from the Federal Tax Administration of Switzerland in accordance with the provisions of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between the two countries. In terms of the existing DTAA, notified in 1995 and amended through a notification in 2001, it has not been possible to obtain information regarding bank deposits in Switzerland. However, Government is aware of the news reports of September 2009, wherein the Vice President of Switzerland, in the context of tracing black money, is reported to have stated that "We follow international norms. If you have concrete information like name of the bank and other specific details then there should be no problem". In one of such reports titled "New tax pact to help India track black money", the Vice President is also stated to have responded with a "yes" when asked as to whether renegotiating the treaty would enable India to seek details of specific cases where money of tax evaders was lying in Swiss banks.

2. Our side initiated dialogue with Swiss authorities for renegotiating the DTAA in April, 2009. During negotiations, we expect to discuss and settle issues relating to the scope of and procedures governing exchange of information including information held by banks. First round of these negotiations, initially scheduled for December, 2009, was pre-poned and held at Berne during 10th Nov 2009 to 12th Nov 2009.

Poor research facilities in AIIMS

*76. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the faculty members of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) have been resigning due poor research facilities there;

(b) the process and protocol followed before any research grant is sanctioned in AIIMS;